

ST PAUL'S PARISH CHURCH, HOOK



*Our mission is to worship
God, to grow as disciples,
to love and care for all,
and to reach out with the
good news of Jesus Christ.*

Vicar: Rev. Jen Houghton (Day off – Friday)
07933 004460 / vicar@stpaulschurchhook.org.uk

Website: <https://www.stpaulschurchhook.org.uk>

The Parish Office is open Tuesday-Thursday 9.00am-12.30pm

Email: parish.office@stpaulschurchhook.org.uk Tel No: 020 8391 2362 **Registered Charity No: 1163071**

Sunday 28th June 2026 – 4th Sunday after Trinity

Our Church Warden for 28th June is Alison.

Bible readings for 28th June are: Ephesians 3: v14-19 & Luke 8: v22-25

FUTURE SERVICES

Sunday 28th June - 10am Holy Communion Service - with Pam Ingram

Sunday 5th July - 8.45am said Communion service

-10am All-Age worship & welcome to New Reception Parents and children from St Paul's Primary School.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1st - Paula

2nd - Vivien

7th - Ann F

16th - Lincoln (1st B'day)

18th - Pete

20th - Marion Puttock

22nd - Mary Wadham

24th - Margaret

25th - John Emanuel

Grass cutting. We're looking for a volunteer to join our churchyard grass cutting team. It would involve an hour's work every couple of weeks. The powered mower is supplied. Please speak to Graham for further details.

In 2026, we have a monthly **prayer focus** on a different area of the world (either country or region).

Our prayer focus this month is for the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**. The second largest country in Africa, much of the DRC is covered by dense rainforest. It has a predominantly Christian population. The east is beset by fighting between rebels and government, and an estimated 21 million DR Congo inhabitants are reliant on humanitarian aid. DRC has recently experienced the outbreak of a rare and deadly strain of the Ebola virus within the eastern conflict zone, meaning that opportunities to contain the outbreak were missed. Lack of medical training and facilities, together with the impact of the withdrawal of USAid, is contributing to this becoming a major crisis with wide implications. Pray for aid organisations in the area, including Medecin Sans Frontiers, Cafod, Tearfund and World Vision, and for safety for their workers. Pray that world leaders might recognise the situation and that measures will be put in place to prevent further spread.

~~SATURDAY 27TH June – working party – 9.30am–12.30pm~~ CANCELLED DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER

Saturday 11th July and **Sunday 12th July**: Anniversary Celebration Weekend – celebrating **135 years of Mothers' Union at St Paul's**. Join us for a cream tea in the Parish Hall on Saturday afternoon at 2.30pm and Mothers' Union members will lead the 10am service on Sunday. **Ticket details overleaf.**

Monday 13th July – 7.30pm – COME & SING - We're delighted to invite you to an evening of light refreshments and hearty singing. The band will be leading us as we learn some new worship songs together, and revisit some St Paul's favourites from a few years back. No need to RSVP, just come along on the night.

June sermon series. During June, we have been sharing a new sermon series called "**Why I'm a Christian**" hearing faith stories from members of our congregation: **Pam Ingram** is our last guest speaker. Please keep Pam in your prayers as she prepares to share how God has been at work in her life, and we look forward to being inspired by her story.

Mission Action Planning

Over the next six months, we will be planning where we as a Church community should be focusing our time, gifts and energy for the future of St Paul's. We want everyone to be involved in this and in developing what's called a 'Mission Action Plan' (MAP). A MAP is a tool to help us to listen to the needs within our local community and reflect on the opportunities we have to engage with more people and to share God's love and hope. We will be gathering feedback from our congregation and the wider local community during July, August and September.

On Saturday 3 October, the whole Church is invited to a Mission Action Planning day from **9.30am-2pm** to look at all we have discovered and seek to discern together what God is calling us to do. The MAP day will be held in the Church building and refreshments will be provided. This is a really exciting piece of work, and we hope you will be involved. You will have the chance to complete an online questionnaire over the coming weeks, and there will be some boards at the back of the Church with post-it notes for you to respond to a set of questions, and jot down thoughts and ideas. If you have any questions, please do ask Jen or one of the Churchwardens, Alison and Simon.



St Paul's Mothers' Union

135th Birthday Cream Tea

Saturday 11th July 2026

2.30pm - 4.30pm

Tickets available from Parish Office or Ann Fernihough.

Adults £10, 5-15yrs £5, under 5's Free



Sunday 6th September - Blessing of backpacks Service at 10am

During our All-Age service, we will be blessing backpacks and school bags at the start of the academic year. Our children and young people - including any mature students and others working in education - are invited to bring their backpack to Church to be blessed, and we will pray for those in education. We will also be thanking and affirming our Children's Group leaders and helpers on this date.

Sunday 13th September – Pet Service at 4pm - as we celebrate the joy and companionship our animals bring to our lives. Bring your beloved pets for a blessing, fellowship, and a time of gratitude for all creatures great and small.

Future Dates for your diary

Church parades are back: As part of our All-Age service, we will be joined by local Scouting & Guiding units during 2026. **Sun 7th June** was another success and we look forward to: **Sunday 4th October** when The **Kingston and Malden Scout and Guide Band** who will be playing for 15-20 min after the parade service **DO NOT MISS!!**

Saturday 20th June: *Music@St Paul's*: Freddie Pirotta & Band.

Saturday 11th July and Sunday 12th July: Anniversary Celebration Weekend – celebrating **135 years of Mothers' Union at St Paul's**. Join us for a cream tea in the Parish Hall on Saturday afternoon at 2.30pm and Mothers' Union members will lead the 10am service on Sunday.

Monday 13th July – Come and sing – details overleaf

Sunday 6th September – Blessing of Backpacks service – for start of new school year.

Sunday 13th September at 4pm for a special **Pet Service**

Sunday 3 October - 9.30-2pm - Mission Action Planning day for the whole Church (see notice overleaf)

Sunday 11th October – Harvest Festival.

Saturday 17th October – *Music@St Paul's* Concert with internationally acclaimed artist – Jo Harrop

Archive Anecdotes – June 1975 – The Funniest Language

1)The plural of box is boxes, not boxen,
but the plural of ox is not oxes, but oxen.
One bird is a goose, but a pair are called geese,
But a number of mice are not mouses nor meece.

2)If the plural of man is men,
Why shouldn't a number of pans be called pen?
If I speak of a foot and you show me two feet,
You'll be ready to put on your boots, not beet.

3)Then the masculine
pronouns are he, his & him,
But imagine the feminine,
she, shis & shim!
So the English I reckon
you will all agree
Is the funniest language
you ever did see!

St Paul's Church WhatsApp group

We will be setting up a St Paul's Church group on WhatsApp as an additional way of communicating with the Church. This will be a 'broadcast only' group for Church to send members announcements (rather than a way for members to chat). We hope this will complement our existing ways of communicating, and messages will be sent no more than 1-2 times a week. There is no requirement to join this, but details of how you can be added to the WhatsApp group will be sent to you during June. Watch this space!

New Church database Over the coming months, we will be starting to use **Church Suite**, a Church management system specifically designed to support Church life. Church Suite will enable us to store members' information more securely, register children and track attendance, and communicate more effectively. It will also help significantly with the requirements for recruiting volunteers. Church Suite will only be accessible to the Vicar, Parish Administrator and key volunteers as needed; however, it may - in the future - be a way for the Church community to share contact details with one another (strictly only with an individual's permission). You will be asked to complete a form (online or paper copy) over the coming weeks to register your details and tell us how you would like to be contacted by the Church - thank you in advance for your help with this. If you have any questions, please do contact Jen.

WE HAVE THREE WAYS OF 'GIVING' TO ST PAUL'S CHURCH:

- Directly through our bank account. *Sort Code: 60-21-05 Account No: 96897856 Account Name: PCC of St Paul's Hook.*
- Through 'Paypal' via our website www.stpaulschurchhook.org.uk and click on the
- 'donate to St Paul's link' or using the QR Code
- Through contactless card payments using the machine by the main church doors.

Please also complete a Gift Aid form, available at the back of church or from the Parish Office, if you are a taxpayer. YOUR SUPPORT IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.

